

8-5-1937

## Letter, USDA to Cully Cobb; 8/5/1937

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

August 5, 1937

Received 8-7-37

Mr. C. A. Cobb, Director  
Southern Division  
Agricultural Adjustment Administration  
Washington, D. C.

E. Hagarboer

Dear Mr. Cobb:

On Sunday afternoon, July 18th when I enjoyed a most encouraging interview with you and there was such promise of intensive, consecrated service under your leadership, I little dreamed that so soon afterwards, I would open my morning paper and read that you had severed your connection with a task in which you have demonstrated such rare leadership.

I find it extremely difficult to even comprehend the full reality of it and it is even more difficult to express to you how thoroughly bewildered I am about the whole situation.

It has seemed to me that you were so nobly endowed for continued leadership in the Southern Division and since my very fortunate affiliation with the work, I have never ceased to marvel at the poise and dignity which you display and the highly effective way in which you have handled most delicate inter-racial situations.

On recent tours through the Southern Region, I have met hundreds of colored farmers to whom your name is a symbol of friendliness and sympathetic understanding. You little know what you have meant to those humble people. To them your resignation, as Director, will be a serious loss.

Your interest in that great mass of our people and the pathway to economic stability which you have laid out for them, will be a perpetual monument to you. Our prayer is that your contribution to the advancement of the South will always be identified and associated with your name and that the future has in store for our people nothing which will dull the brilliance of your achievement.

You have been a challenging and inspiring Commander-in-chief and your leaving and consequent loss of contact, is a great personal loss to me. I hope, therefore, that even in your new field of labor, you may be willing to include me among your thousands of sincere, devoted friends and that whenever an appropriate occasion arises, I may be privileged to serve you or to drop in and pay my respects to you.

I can express no higher hope for your successor than that he may be inspired by your example and may carry on in your spirit.

Respectfully and sincerely,

Alvin L. Hays  
Field Officer

ALH:w